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Subject: General situation in Ukraine

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Source: Maria Wonciuk, nee Mahun.

Date: 19 Aug. 1964

1. Source is Ukrainian, female, aged 52. She has arrived in New York City to join her husband, who has been paralyzed for the past four years. S. now lives with her brother and his family at 208 East 7th Street, N.Y.C. (since May '64).

S. has arrived from the village of Yuzupil, in Lviv Oblast. She has a grade four education, but gives an appearance of a naturally intelligent and talented peasant, who had gone through a hard school of Soviet reality. S. left behind her son, a school teacher, who is in charge of the evening school. Through her son's influence it was possible for S. to travel every year on her vacations -- (to Zemlyanka, Kosiv, Zakarpatska Oblast and Chernivetska Oblast). She also made frequent trips to Lviv.

She says that she lived well while in Ukraine, but is unhappy in the United States -- no friends, no job, and constant homesickness. She has a notion (aided by suggestions in letters from her son) to return home, and take her crippled husband with her. (She had not seen the husband since 1938, when he left for America in search of a job).

2. Yuzupil is more a town than a village, populated almost exclusively by Ukrainians. There are only two Russians, husband and wife from Leningrad, ~~who~~ in the village, but good relations prevail between them and the village population.

The village came out unscathed from the war. Only one woman died of a bullet wound. There were members of the underground active in the area, and now they have come back from exile and live in the village as ordinary citizens.

The former parish priest, a Rev. Levytskyy, has also returned to the village from the exile, but he was not assigned to Yuzupil and is forced to live in another village. There is now another

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priest in the village, a younger man, a Western Ukrainian, who conducts Orthodox services, and preaches in Ukrainian.

There are 35 teachers in the village -- 33 of them Ukrainian. Source believes all classes are given in Ukrainian with the exception of Russian language. In the city of Halych -- near Yuzupil -- there is an army garrison, and some Russians in the Rayon Committee.

3. General situation. (Source at times falls into an emotion-laden propagandizing tone of voice). She "brings greetings from the native land." Says Ukrainian people "are doing alright," they have great achievements behind them, and feel like "masters of their land" -- all that's needed is "liberty" or more specifically, sovereignty, but this will come in time. The people are not waiting for war or for help from the West.

The Church.

Only the older citizens attend it, and mainly women. S. herself did not attend church -- "in these new times, one has to adjust."

The Kolshosp.

Things are worse than they used to be, but much better than under Stalin. People don't want to work, and pilfer things, saying "it's all ours, anyway." The production plans are "fulfilled" thanks to the accounting department. The chairman of the kolhosp is a local man, as is the only policeman in the village. The chairman does not order the people about -- they are more often insulting towards him, saying "if things are so rotten, it's your own fault, you're the chairman." The rayon authorities are also careful in the way they treat the people. The latter openly criticize the regime, but not Khrushchev, because "he's better than Stalin", he wants to help the people but can't always do it.

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